

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST to L.D. 153**

**LD TITLE: An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing License**

**SPONSORED BY: Representative KESCHL of Belgrade**

**CO-SPONSORED BY: Representative CHASE of Wells, Representative COTTA of China, Representative MAKER of Calais, Representative NUTTING of Oakland, Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin, Representative SHAW of Standish, Senator THOMAS of Somerset**

**DATE OF HEARING: February 28, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of the Licensing Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against to L.D. 153.

L.D. 153 eliminates the super pack license and replaces it with a comprehensive license that includes all hunting and fishing licenses and permits and entries into the moose and antlerless deer lotteries. In comparison to the current super pack license, the new comprehensive license would eliminate any special consideration in the Any-Deer lottery, would offer the license to non-residents, and would substantially reduce the resident fee for the new license. While the department is in favor of many of the concepts in this bill, it has a negative fiscal impact of approximately \$2.2 million as written. Below I have cited some concerns as well as offered some suggestions on various options that could make this bill feasible.

At the currently proposed fees, the department estimates that the new comprehensive license would be purchased by roughly 110,000 people each year as opposed to only 2,000 for the current super pack license. The large number of people projected to purchase this new license presents a few problems that should be considered by the Committee. With the new comprehensive license, the number of people who would buy

individual hunting permits such as pheasant, bear, and migratory waterfowl permits would be greatly reduced. Currently, the revenues from the sale of many of these different hunting permits are placed into dedicated accounts that are used only for special purposes. We would need to create a fair way to allocate revenue from the new comprehensive license to these dedicated accounts. Another consideration is that we currently have accurate counts of the number of people who participate in the hunting of various wild birds and animals based on permit sales. With the new comprehensive license, we would no longer be selling these permits and we would need to incorporate a user survey (like the current HIP survey) into the process of buying the new comprehensive license. The last concern lies in the area of firearms and archery safety courses. A purchaser of the new comprehensive license would not be required to meet the firearms or archery safety requirements to buy the license. They would essentially be on the honor system just as people currently are with the current super pack license. The difference lies in the much larger number of people projected to buy the new comprehensive license. The potential for abuse would be much higher. To resolve this problem, the department requests that the Committee consider two new items versus one by offering a comprehensive hunting/fishing license and a comprehensive archery/fishing license. In this scenario, a person would still need to meet the appropriate safety course requirements before buying the license of choice. The department would also request that the Committee be clear about the number of expanded archery antlerless permits that would be included with the new comprehensive license. In closing, the department supports the basic idea of this proposed legislation and looks forward to working with the Committee during work session.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time.